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DEPARTMENT OF STATE, October 8, 1961

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FROM: BERLIN

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TO: Secretary of

NO: 702, OCTOBER

ACTION DEPARTMENT 702, DANN 525, INFORMATION DEPT 5447,
LONDON 467, MOSCOW 444, POLAD USAREUR 379.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, STOESSEL AND MCGUIRE.

LAST WEEK

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CALLED

ON ME TO STATE THAT SPRINGER RECALLED THAT MORGENPOST AND BILD ZEITUNG HAD HANDLED STORIES ATTRIBUTED TO GENERAL CLAY FOLLOWING HIS PRESS RECEPTION ON SEP 22. [] EXPLAINED DIFFICULTY IN KEEPING EDITORIAL POLICY VARIOUS SPRINGER PUBLICATIONS IN LINE AND SAID HE WANTED TO ESTABLISH CONTACT SO THAT IF AMBIGUITIES REGARDING US POLICY OCCURRED AGAIN HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO CHECK IN QUICKLY WITH ME ON FACTS OR BACKGROUND BEFORE NEWSPAPERS SENT TO PRESS. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR HIS CALL AND WILLINGNESS COOPERATE IN MANNER SUGGESTED PARTICULARLY AS WE IN MISSION HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLY CONCERNED REGARDING PRESS TREATMENT IN THE TWO NEWSPAPERS MENTIONED.

GENUINE CONCERN IN BERLIN AND WEST GERMANY OVER FUTURE COURSE US GERMAN POLICY. HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO WORRY OVER STATEMENTS, RUMORS, SPECULATIVE ARTICLES FROM THE US INDICATING EXTREME POSITIONS WE MIGHT FALL BACK TO IN NEGOTIATIONS OVER BERLIN. IN PARTICULAR HE REFERRED TO OMISSION OF ASSURANCES BY GEN CLAY AND PRES KENNEDY THAT US STILL MAINTAINED LONG TERM GOAL OF REUNIFICATION OF GERMANY AND OMISSION OF DEMAND FOR FREE OVERLAND ACCESS FOR GOODS AND PERSONS OF ALL CATEGORIES GERMAN AS WELL AS ALLIES. [] DEEP LATENT NATIONALISM IN GERMAN CHARACTER AS EXPLAINING CONTINUING IMPORTANCE

/OF

SECRET

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-2- 702, OCTOBER 8, 1 PM FROM BERLIN

OF REASSERTING POLICY REUNIFICATION, HOWEVER REMOTE ITS ATTAINMENT MIGHT BE. HE HOPED UNDERSTANDABLE EMPHASIS ON ALLIED ACCESS AND AIR ACCESS DID NOT MEAN WE WERE FORGETTING BERLINERS' OWN VITAL LIFELINES ON SURFACE ROUTES. HE ALSO HOPED THAT UNDERSTANDABLE PREOCCUPATION WITH MAINTAINING ACCESS AS ONE OF OUR VITAL INTERESTS WOULD NOT LEAD US TO GO SO FAR IN REACHING MODUS VIVENDI AS TO UNDERMINE THE VERY REASON FOR OUR BEING IN BERLIN, I.E., AS CARETAKERS OF GERMAN CAPITAL PENDING REUNIFICATION. HOWEVER UNREALISTIC REUNIFICATION MIGHT SEEM, IT WAS AN ABIDING GERMAN GOAL. WE WOULD BE MAKING GREAT MISTAKE TO FAIL COMPREHEND DEPTH THIS SENTIMENT. IN PSYCHOLOGICAL AREA NOTHING SO IMPORTANT AMONG GERMANS AS THEMES SELF-DETERMINATION AND REUNIFICATION.

I REPORT FOREGOING BECAUSE IT FITS PATTERN OF MANY OTHER SIMILAR REACTIONS FROM FEDREP AND BERLIN. WITH PRESENT TENDENCY TO JUDGE EVERYTHING IN RELATION TO OUR SOMEWHAT DOGMATICALLY DEFINED "VITAL INTERESTS", RECENT RATHER VIOLENT OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC GERMAN REACTION TO AMERICAN COMMENTARY ON BERLIN PROBLEM MAY SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE. (b)(6) (1,3,5)

MLJ

NOTE: Advance copies to SC and SS. Read by Mr. McKisson (EUR)
10/8/CWO-M.

SECRET

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